



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Paul A. Crawford

Serial No.: 10/008,106

Filed: November 9, 2001

For: PUP JOINT WITH INTEGRAL WING
NUT RETENTION SHOULDER

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Examiner: Unknown

Atty. Dkt. No.: FMCC:014USR1/MTG

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 C.F.R. § 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date below:

2/20/02
Date

Mark T. Garrett
Mark T. Garrett

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED

MAY 29 2002

GROUP 3600

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record. Copies of the listed documents required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2) are enclosed for the convenience of the Examiner.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R §§ 1.97(g),(h), this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be

construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

Reference C2

Reference C2 is 10 pages sent to FMC Corporation as attachments to a letter dated May 20, 1999. In the May 20, 1999 letter, the party that sent reference C2 to FMC Corporation stated, “[f]or years, SPM [Flow Control, Inc.] has sold relatively small lengths of pipe for the oil industry to conduct fluids from one piece of equipment to another, these small lengths of pipe having all of the features claimed in the claims of the patent. I am attaching to this letter copies of drawings and sales documents illustrating one of the sales more than one year before the filing date of FMC’s patent application. For confidentiality, I have redacted dimensions and pricing information.”

In another letter to FMC Corporation dated November 8, 1999, the party that sent reference C2 to FMC Corporation stated, “[t]he crossover assembly of [C2] is a relatively small length of pipe that conducts fluids from one piece of equipment to another. . . . Additionally, crossover assemblies have been marketed long before the filing date [of the application that issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,791,693] with lengths as much as two feet. Pup joints have been marketed long before the filing date of the patent with lengths as short as two feet.”

In a letter to FMC Corporation dated March 20, 2001 from James Bradley, the party stated, “[i]n SPM’s prior art crossover assembly of [C2], the male sub has a reduced diameter section that extends to a larger diameter pipe, with the female sub being located at the end of the larger diameter pipe. The retention shoulder is thus located at the junction of the reduced diameter portion of the male sub and larger diameter pipe.”

Reference C3

Reference C3 is a drawing sent to FMC Corporation as an attachment to the letter dated March 20, 2001 from James Bradley and as an attachment to a letter dated March 20, 2001 from Dan Lowrance. In the March 20, 2001 letter from James Bradley, the party that sent reference C3 to FMC Corporation stated, "I am enclosing a copy of [C3], which was prepared in 1983 by [SPM Flow Control, Inc.]. This drawing shows a pipe joint for use on an SPM intensifier unit. The pipe joint was over six feet in length, thus certainly qualifies to be a pup joint. At 3.81" from the end, a retention shoulder was machined on the male end, the shoulder being shown at 45°. Although not shown in the drawing, a wing nut was located between the retention shoulder and the forward shoulder on the male end. The wing nut was held by retainer segments."

In the letter dated March 20, 2001 from Dan Lowrance to FMC Corporation, the party stated, "[a] specific example of the piping is our drawing [C3], dated Jan [sic] 24, 1983. This part was built for our Intensifier program which was marketed at that time."

References C4 and C5

References C4 and C5 are copies of labeled photographs sent to FMC Corporation as attachments to the letter dated March 20, 2001 from James Bradley and to the letter dated March 20, 2001 from Dan Lowrance. In the March 20, 2001 letter from James Bradley, the party that sent references C4 and C5 to FMC Corporation stated, "[t]he pipe joint of the [C3] drawing was built as shown by [C4 and C5]. The pipe joint was used as a component on an intensifier unit that is shown in the enclosed advertisement [i.e., C6, discussed below]. This intensifier unit was offered for sale along with the pipe joint more than a year before the filing date of [U.S. Patent No. 5,791,693]."

In the letter dated March 20, 2001 from Dan Lowrance, the same party stated, “[a] specific example of the piping is our drawing [C3], dated Jan [sic] 24, 1983. This part was built for our Intensifier program which was marketed at that time. I have included a copy of the intensifier literature (dated 1986) [i.e., C6, discussed below] that features this piping. An accompanying photo [i.e., either C4 or C5 – it is not clear from the letter] clearly shows the retention shoulder for the wingnut and retainer segments, which have been removed for this photograph. This stop retains the wing nut and segments from slipping down the length of pipe.”

Reference C6

Reference C6 consists of 4 pages of SPM Flow Control, Inc. literature, one page of which has “© 1987 SPM” and another page of which has “© 1986 SPM.” The 4 pages of reference C6 were sent to FMC Corporation as attachments to the letter dated March 20, 2001 from James Bradley and to the March 20, 2001 letter from Dan Lowrance. In the March 20, 2001 letter from Dan Lowrance, the party stated, “[a] specific example of the piping is our drawing [C3], dated Jan [sic] 24, 1983. This part was built for our Intensifier program which was marketed at that time. I have included a copy of the intensifier literature (dated 1986) [i.e., C6] that features this piping. An accompanying photo [i.e., either C4 or C5 – it is not clear from the letter] clearly shows the retention shoulder for the wingnut and retainer segments, which have been removed for this photograph. This stop retains the wing nut and segments from slipping down the length of pipe.”

In the March 20, 2001 letter from James Bradley, the party stated, “[t]he pipe joint of [C3] was built as shown by the enclosed photographs. The pipe joint was used as a component on an intensifier unit that is shown in the enclosed advertisement [C6]. This intensifier unit was

offered for sale along with the pipe joint more than a year before the filing date of [U.S. Patent No. 5,791,693].”

Reference C7

Reference C7 is a drawing sent to FMC Corporation as an attachment to the letter dated March 20, 2001 from James Bradley and to the March 20, 2001 letter from Dan Lowrance. The party that sent C7 to FMC Corporation stated in the March 20, 2001 James Bradley letter, “[s]ince [C2] did not give dimensions, I am enclosing a copy of drawing [C7], dated 4/8/89, which shows dimensions for one size of a crossover that was sold by SPM more than a year before the filing date [of the application that issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,791,693]. The drawing shows the retention shoulder being located 3.03 inches from the male end, making it approximately 9 inches from the female end. Clearly, the retention shoulder extends radially outward from the male sub because it is much closer to the male end than the female end.”

In the March 20, 2001 letter from Dan Lowrance, the party stated, “[p]art [C7] is a 1989 drawing that shows a crossover that is 12 inches long. The machining on the male end puts the retention shoulder 3.03 inches from the male end and about 9 inches from the female end. Crossovers according to this drawing were offered for sale and sold years before the filing of [the application that issued as U.S. Patent No. 5,791,693]. Your attorney has argued in the previously submitted material, the retention shoulder was at the rear end of the female sub, not the male sub. However, in the [C7] drawing the shoulder is much closer to the male end than the female end. The male sub is the portion from the male end to the retention shoulder. The OD of the male sub is smaller than the shoulder, thus the shoulder extends radially outward from the male sub just as called for in [U.S. Patent No. 5,791,693].”

Reference C8

Reference C8 is a drawing sent to FMC Corporation as an attachment to the letter dated March 20, 2001 from Dan Lowrance. The party that sent C8 to FMC Corporation stated in the letter, “[t]he first illustration in this package is the male end machining specification (2S16851) which clearly shows the retention shoulder. This drawing was originated in 1988 and is used on all of our pup joints and crossovers.”

* * *

Copies of the May 20, 1999 letter; the November 8, 1999 letter; the March 20, 2001 from James Bradley; and the March 20, 2001 letter from Dan Lowrance referenced above are included as enclosures. Copies of the attachments are also provided with these letters. A representative of Applicant’s employer made a reasonable search of Applicant’s employer’s files to find the proper attachments to these letters. Applicant provides these copies for completeness and context, and to aid the Examiner in understanding the explanations of references C2-C8 set forth above. By including these letters and attachments, Applicant is not agreeing with nor admitting the truth of any of the statements in the letters, except to the extent admitted in the Information Disclosure Statement filed on November 9, 2001.

Applicant also provides copies of letters sent by Applicant’s employer to SPM Flow Control, Inc. These letters are dated March 31, 1999, September 3, 1999, and December 1, 1999. Applicant does this to apprise the Examiner of the communications that prompted the May 20, 1999, November 8, 1999, and two March 20, 2001 letters discussed above. Applicant does not include the attachment to the March 31, 1999 letter – a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,791,693.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be required for any reason, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct said fees from Fulbright & Jaworski Deposit Account No. 50-1212/10104805/MTG.

Applicant respectfully requests that the information included herein be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 20, 2002